

## **A GENERAL DATA STRUCTURE FOR DESCRIBING LOGICAL DATA SPACES**

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### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5           A data structure is disclosed. The data structure includes a data descriptor record. In turn, the data descriptor record includes a type field, a base address field, an offset field, wherein the , and a length field. The type field may be configured, for example, to indicate a data structure type. The data structure type may be configured to assume a values indicating one of a contiguous buffer, a scatter-gather list and a  
10 linked list structure, among other such data structures. The base address field may be configured, for example, to store a base address, with the base address being a starting address of a secondary data structure associated with the data descriptor record. The offset field may be configured, for example, to indicate a starting address of data within a secondary data structure pointed to by a base address stored in the base  
15 address field. The length field is configured to indicate a length of data stored in a secondary data structure pointed to by a base address stored in the base address field.